AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1-2. (Cancelled)
- 3. (Currently Amended) An amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (i) an amino acid sequence coded by the isolated nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:36: and
 - (ii) and an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO:72. of alternative splice variants of Claim 1;
- (i) homologues of the amino acid sequences of (i) in which one or more amino acids has been added, deleted, replaced or chemically modified in the region or adjacent to the region where the amino acid sequences differs from the original amino acid sequence, coded by the original nucleic acid sequence from which the variant has been varied.
 - 4. (Cancelled)
 - 5-40. (Cancelled)
- 41. (New) The amino acid sequence according to claim 3, wherein the amino acid sequence is coded by the isolated nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:36.

42. (New) The amino acid sequence according to claim 3, wherein the amino acid sequence is an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO:72.